

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (new) A control system for a printing or copying system, comprising:

5 at least one operating unit for input or output of operating information of the printing or copying system;

a first control unit and at least one second control unit, the control units controlling at least one part of the printing or copying system;

10 a data line via which the control units are connected with one another and via which control data are transferred between the control units with aid of a data transfer protocol;

the first control unit providing a server which the operating unit accesses as a client; and

15 at least one part of the transferable control data being input or output by the operating unit in addition to the operating information.

34. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the data transfer protocol comprises a Simple Network Management Protocol.

20 35. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein access to the operating information or the control data occurs with aid of a distributed object model in which objects are contained in units of the printing or copying system.

36. (new) A control system according to claim 35 wherein the operating unit accesses at least one object of at least one control unit, the object containing data with operating information or control data.

25 37. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the operating information or the control data are processed with the aid of data, data structures, files, or events that are object-related.

38. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the operating unit has at least one object for input or output of the operating information and the control data, the data transfer between the operating unit and the at least one control unit occurring with help of the objects.

5 39. (new) A control system according to claim 38 wherein the data transfer between objects defined in the programming language Java occurs with aid of a standardized model for abstract description of distributed objects.

10 40. (new) A control system according to claim 39 wherein the standardized model for abstract description of distributed objects occurs according to a Common Object Request Broker Architecture, and the access to the control data and operating information occurs with the aid of a Remote Method Invocation communication.

15 41. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the control data contain control variables, whereby at least values of these control variables can be input or output with aid of the operating unit.

 42. (new) A control system according to claim 41 wherein the control data are administered with aid of a management information base.

20 43. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the operating information comprise input or output values for configuration or execution of print jobs.

 44. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the control data concern internal control variables.

25 45. (new) A control system according to claim 33 wherein the input or output of the operating information or of the control data occurs with aid of a graphical user interface of the operating unit.

 46. (new) A method for input or output of operating information and control data of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

inputting or outputting the operating information of the printing or copying system with aid of at least one operating unit;

controlling the printing or copying system via a first control unit and at least one second control unit;

5 transferring control data between the control units via a data line with aid of a data transfer protocol;

providing with the control unit a server which the operating unit accesses as a client; and

10 inputting or outputting at least one part of the transferred control data with aid of the operating unit of the printing or copying system.

47. (new) A system for administration and transfer of control data of a printing or copying system, comprising:

15 information of control data stored in a central database of the printing or copying system, the information comprising at least a hierarchical organization of an existing structure of control units and function units; and

a control unit of the printing or copying system having access to the control data with aid of said information.

20 48. (new) A system according to claim 47 wherein a value of a variable stored in a storage region is output together with a clear text designation stored in said database.

49. (new) A system according to claim 47 wherein the control unit comprises a first control unit, and at least one part of the control data is stored in a second control unit of the printing or copying system.

25 50. (new) A system according to claim 49 wherein the first control unit reads out at least one part of the control data from the second control unit or transfers the at least one part of the control data to the second control unit.

51. (new) A system according to claim 49 wherein the first control unit or the second control unit comprises an operating unit of the printing or copying system.

52. (new) A system according to claim 49 wherein a distributed
5 object model using a network protocol is provided for transfer of the control data and information between the control units of the database.

53. (new) A system according to claim 52 wherein the transfer occurs with aid of a Remote Method Invocation communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol, the database containing a
10 management information base.

54. (new) A method for administration and transfer of control data of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

storing information about the control data in a central database of the printing or copying system, the information comprising at least a hierarchical
15 organization of existing structure of control units and function units; and

with a control unit of the printing or copying system accessing the control data with aid of said information.

55. (new) A printing or copying system, comprising:

at least first and second printing units;

20 the first printing unit comprising a first operating unit and a first control unit;

the second printing unit comprising second operating unit and a second control unit;

25 data that contain operating information or control data being transferred between the first control unit and the second control unit;

the first control unit comprising a master control unit and the second control unit comprising a slave control unit; and

the master control unit providing data for the first operating unit and data for the second operating unit, the control data for the first operating unit
5 and for the second operating unit being provided by the master control unit.

56. (new) A system according to claim 55 wherein the first control unit provides the same data to the first operating unit and to the second operating unit.

57. (new) A system according to claim 55 wherein both the data
10 transferred between the control units and the data transferred from the first control unit to the second operating unit are transferred over a data line.

58. (new) A system according to claim 55 wherein the first printing unit is arranged in a first printer or copier and the second printing unit is arranged in a second printer or copier, the first and the second printing units
15 respectively generating at least one print image on a same carrier material.

⁵⁹ ~~60.~~ (new) A method for input or output of operating information in a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

providing at least first and second printing units;

operating the first printing unit with aid of a first operating unit and
20 controlling it with aid of a first control unit;

operating the second printing unit with aid of a second operating unit and controlling it with aid of a second control unit;

transferring data that contain operating information or control data input or output via the operating units between the first control unit and the second control unit, the first control unit comprising a master control unit and the
25 second control unit comprising a slave control unit; and

providing data that are generated by the master control unit for the first operating unit and for the second operating unit, the control data for the first operating unit and for the second operating unit being provided by the master control unit.

5 ⁶⁰~~61~~. (new) A printing or copying system, comprising:

at least first and second printing units;

an operating unit for input or output of parameters of the printing or copying system;

10 given an input of a first value of a first parameter of the first printing unit, a second value of the same parameter of the second printing unit being automatically changed dependent on the value of the first parameter; and

the first and the second value being coupled such that, given a change of the first or second value in a coupled state, the respective other value is changed by a same amount.

15 ⁶¹~~62~~. (new) A printing or copying system according to claim 61 wherein the input value of the first parameter is automatically assumed as a value for the second parameter.

20 ⁶²~~63~~. (new) A printing or copying system according to claim 61 wherein the automatic changing of the value of the same parameter can be activated and deactivated.

25 ⁶³~~64~~. (new) A method for control of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

providing first and second printing units;

inputting or outputting parameters of the printing or copying system with aid of an operating unit;

given an input of a first value of a first parameter of the first printing unit, automatically changing a second value of the same parameter of a second printing unit dependent on the value of the first parameter; and

- 5 coupling the first and the second values such that, given a change of the first or second values in a coupled state, the respective other value is changed by the same amount.